hand and making available fertilizers to the farmers at a reasonable price on the other. However, the time frame for decontrol and deregulation of distribution of urea is not firmed up as yet.

Formation of Eastern Gas Grid/LNG terminal

1672. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are exploring the possibilities of forming an Eastern Gas Grid or a LNG terminal to cater to the need of feedstock for production of urea in Orissa, Bihar and West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the present status of the same and whether Durgapur and Haldia plants of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation would be rehabilitated, by using LNG as feedstock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Government had constituted a Core Group to explore the possibility of import of LNG for manufacture of Fertilizers in the country. Based on the recommendations of the Core Group, the proposal for preparation of Detailed Feasibility Report for the import of LNG for manufacture of Fertilizers is being processed by the Government.

The revamp of Haldia Project of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited (HFC) has not been found to be techno- economically viable. Accordingly, it has been decided to close/hive off the Haldia Project. The rehabilitation of Durgapur unit is dependent on the decision of the competent authority in the Government and the sanction of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction.

Purchase of DAP by NFL

1673. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Fertilizers Ltd. had signed a contract on 20th June, 1995 to purchase one lakh MT of DAP with a foreign company;

(b) whether it is also a fact that second consignment was sold on high sea;